Author Sues to Block 'Deluge' Of 40,000 FBI-JFK Pages

Author Harold Weisberg has asked for a federal court injunction to block the impending release of another 40,000 pages of FBI documents on the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

In a suit filed in U.S. District Court here this week, Weisberg charged that the release of the records in such volume amounted to "media events . . . reminiscent of the FBI's tactic of deluging the Warren Commission with reams of irrelevant material."

Alluding to the FBI's release of the first 40,000 pages earlier this month, Weisberg, a critic of the Warren Commission and author of six books on the Kennedy assassination, contended that it was "impossible for the press to fulfill its obligations to the public properly, since no one in the media could digest and evaluate this mass of material in time to meet newspaper deadlines."

Noting that his own freedom of information requests for such documents were pending for years, some as far back as the 1960s, Weisberg argued that he is entitled first to a ruling by the Justice Department that he need not pay search fees or copying costs—which he said he could not afford—and secondly to getting the documents "no later than the date on which the next batch . . . is made available to other requestors."

In this way, he said he could serve as he has in the past as an "adviser to news media representatives who do not have the background or the time to be able to evaluate" such an accumulation of records.